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# Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information Radio-Television Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330

Letter No. 2407

April 7, 1989

RAUL NOMINATED -- President George Bush announced his intention April 3 to nominate Alan Charles Raul to be USDA's general counsel. He would succeed Christopher Hicks. Since 1988, Raul has been general counsel for the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C. Before then, he was associate counsel to the president at the White House. He received his A.B. from Harvard College, his M.P.A. from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and his J.D. from Yale Law School.

YEUTTER NAMES KEARNEY -- Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter appointed Patricia M. Kearney as his chief of staff April 4. Kearney had been serving as transition leader for USDA. She was deputy director of communications for the 1988 Republican National Convention. She also served as a member of Governor John Sununu's transition staff. During an earlier tenure at USDA, Kearney served as an assistant to the secretary of agriculture and nutrition advisor to the assistant secretary for food and consumer services.

WATER POLLUTION CONFERENCE -- USDA's Soil Conservation Service will help sponsor a national conference on controlling water pollution from "nonpoint" sources at the Clarion Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., April 23 - 26. "Nonpoint" pollutants are those contaminants that reach streams and rivers through runoff or leach into ground water from agricultural, forest, mined and urban land. Press registration at the "National Nonpoint Conference" is complimentary. Contact: Eugene Lamb (202) 547-NACD.

"INVESTING IN AMERICA'S FUTURE" is the theme of this year's National 4-H Conference which is being held in Washington, D.C., April 9 - 15. More than 300 young people and adults are expected to attend. The delegates will exchange viewpoints and help chart directions for the nationwide Cooperative Extension Service and its 4-H youth members. They will visit USDA April 12. Contact: Stuart Sutherland (202) 447-4653.

WHAT DID USDA DO LAST YEAR? You can get a quick picture of what USDA's agencies worked at and accomplished last year in the 1988 Report of the Secretary of Agriculture. Just off press. Want a copy? Call Marci Hilt (202) 447-6445. Media only, please.

WHERE'S THE CRUNCH? Ever bite into a delicious-looking apple only to find the crisp crunch missing? This surprise is sometimes due to fruit bruises not visible at the packinghouse or the supermarket. Scientists at USDA and Cornell are now testing a hightech way to detect these bruises that turn apples soft. Contact: Doris Sanchez (301) 344-2767.

WHERE DID CAJUN COME FROM? Cajun food is enjoying growing popularity around the world, according to the April issue of USDA's AgExporter magazine. Cajun food got its start in Louisiana over 200 years ago. A group of French men and women were exiled from Nova Scotia to southern Louisiana. They were known as Acadians, since Nova Scotia then was called Acadia. The word "Acadians" eventually became "Cajuns." The ensuing years have seen the Cajuns refine and develop their French cooking style to where it is now becoming a world sensation from Stockholm to Tokyo. For a copy of the April AgExporter, which also features articles about marketing U.S. products in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Europe, the Caribbean and Japan, call Lynn Goldsbrough (202) 382-9442. Media only, please.

VIRGINIA CENSUS -- The Bureau of the Census has just released information from the 1987 census of agriculture about Virginia. In 1987, the Old Dominion had 44,799 farms in 1987 -- 15,602 of which had annual product sales of \$10,000 or more. For more information, write or call: Information Office, Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233; (301) 763-1113.

FATE OF THE FORESTS -- The virgin rainforests in this country have shrunk to a prized strip in the Far West, most owned by the federal government, according to a recent New York Times. Some tree experts think only about 10 percent of the forest that was here before colonial times remains. Other estimates are as high as 30 percent. Now USDA's Forest Service is contemplating a new survey of old-growth forest. Contact: Karl Bergsvik (202) 447-8609.

ETHANOL ECONOMICS -- Expanding the U.S. ethanol industry hinges largely on extending the federal fuel excise tax exemption and corn prices. For ethanol to be competitive in the 1990's without the federal subsidy, crude oil prices would have to increase substantially, a new USDA study says. The report evaluates structural characteristics of the industry. For a media review copy of Economics of Ethanol Production in the United States, call: Marci Hilt (202) 447-6445.

CAMEL EXPERIMENT NO LUCKY STRIKE -- USDA scientists near Las Cruces, N.M., are striking out with a camel experiment, according to the Kansas City Star. USDA brought eight camels to the area to see if they could help slow the infestation of woody brush on much of America's ranch land. Unfortunately, the camels are ignoring the rough and woody tarbush, creasotebush and mesquite the researchers hoped they would eat. They'd rather eat the scarcer, but tastier, cattle food. "You put me at a smorgasbord with liver and roast beef, I'll tell you what will be left -- the liver," says Dean Anderson, the project director. "All eight of 'em haven't eaten a complete tarbush in eight months," said researcher Larry Shupe. Contact: Dean Anderson (505) 646-4842.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1661 -- Food safety concerns everyone. On this edition, Brenda Curtis talks with a Western New York State dairy farmer, a fruit and vegetable processor, as well as USDA's Consumer Affairs Advisor Ann Chadwick about the common concerns that impact both farmers and consumers. (Weekly 13-1/2 min. documentary.)

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1650 -- USDA News Highlights; Dairy price support; CRP may be costly to complete; Expanding corn markets; Ethanol faces challenge; Farmers can receive indemnity payments for using Dinoseb. (Weekly reel of news features.)

CONSUMER TIME #1142 -- What happened to Ethanol? Degradable plastic from corn starch; Mystery of the dying fish; Consumers and the Soviet election; Consumers and farmers have common concerns. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 - 3 min. features.)

USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Friday, April 14, milk production; Monday, April 17, floriculture production; Tuesday, April 18, weekly weather & crop update; rice outlook; Wednesday, April 19, ag outlook.

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE (202) 488-8358 or 8359.  
Material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and USDA NEWS SERVICE are available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6.2 or 6.8:

Thursdays . . . . AG UPDATE/USDA NEWS SERVICE, 7:30-7:45 p.m., EDT,  
ORIGINAL UPLINK Transponder 12D

Saturdays . . . . AG UPDATE/USDA NEWS SERVICE, 10:30-11:15 a.m., EDT,  
ORIGINAL UPLINK Transponder 10D

Mondays . . . . AG UPDATE/USDA NEWS SERVICE, 8:30-9:15 a.m., EDT,  
REPEAT UPLINK Transponder 12D

OFF MIKE

WHEAT...producers in some sections of the South are turning their crop under, says Jerry Gehman (WASG, Atmore, Ala.). Winter kill and a variety of pests have taken a toll. Jerry says producers are telling him crop insurance payout is insufficient for the investment; cattle producers say lack of financing is preventing expansion because sources other than the local bank are not interested in long-term livestock. 75th ANNIVERSARY...of Iowa State U. Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho, nat'l agricultural fraternity, held April 7-9 at Ames. Herb Plambeck (Living History Farms, Des Moines) says the program will include a special tribute to 100-year old Otis Tuttle, a Norway, Iowa, farmer, and 97-year old Joe Robinson, an Iowa crop improvement pioneer.

B-ROLL...of Soviet agriculture on our TV satellite was appreciated by Will McCracken (KLJB-TV, Davenport). Called our Lynn Wyvill to say he takes the news feed.

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WELL-DONE...says Frances Basile (WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, W.Va., program director) to our Brenda Curtis about the interview with Sec. Clayton Yeutter transmitted recently. Yeutter stated his position on issues at the beginning of his tenure. ACCOLADES...also to our Marci Hilt from Jim Johnson (USDA R&TV chief, retired) for the job she's doing on this letter. He likes the new masthead, the fifth redesign in 28 years. WHAT...industry had the highest accidental death rate in 1987? Agriculture. 1,000 deaths, 100,000 disabling injuries. Bob Tyson (U. of Ga. Extension safety specialist) says fatigue and environmental health hazards work against farmers. Subject's worth a mention everyday.

  
VIC POWELL, Chief, Radio & TV Division